

## PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 11, 2001, due to an illness I was unable to travel to Washington and was therefore unable to cast votes on rollcall Nos. 483 through 485. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "yea" on rollcall No. 483; "yea" on rollcall No. 484; "yea" on rollcall No. 485.

I ask unanimous consent that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect my intended votes. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that record reflect that I am a cosponsor and strong supporter of H.R. 10, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 483, 484 and 485. I was in the hospital with my son.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three.

TRIBUTE TO HIGHLAWN  
ELEMENTARY**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Highlawn Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Highlawn Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Highlawn Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Highlawn Elementary.

KEEPING THE SOCIAL SECURITY  
PROMISE INITIATIVE**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 282, Keeping the Social Security Promise Initiative.

I support this resolution because I believe that Congress needs to pass a Social Security reform plan that protects the current program. That means I will support reform plans that protect Social Security's guaranteed lifetime benefits, maintain its yearly COLAs, strengthen its important anti-poverty role and improve its protections for low-income earners, minorities and women.

This resolution is very timely. Yesterday, the President's self-appointed Commission to Strengthen Social Security released its final report on Social Security reform. It recommended three plans all of which reduce Social Security benefits in order to divert money to create individual accounts.

Today's Resolution puts this Congress on record as rejecting the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security recommendations—which include benefit reductions—and hopefully provides the Congress with starting point for reform.

If President Bush and the House Majority are serious about reforming Social Security, they should sit down and engage in an honest debate with representative of all parties to arrive at an outcome that makes the current Social Security system solvent for generations to come while not cutting Social Security benefits.

As Congress acts on Social Security reform, I urge Republicans to keep their "Social Security Promise" by protecting Americans' Social Security benefits for current and future retirees.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak out of order on Rollcall Nos. 483, 484, and 485, which occurred yesterday on December 11, 2001. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control I was unable to be here to vote on the following bills. I would like to take this opportunity to record for the record that I would have voted yes on:

H.R. 10, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 which will provide benefits to railroad employees and their beneficiaries;

H.R. 3282, honoring former Senator Mike Mansfield by designating a Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in his honor; and

H. Con. Res 281, honoring the great sacrifice of Johnny Michael Spann, the first American killed in combat in the war against terrorism.

SIEMENS WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Shira Billet and Dora Sosnowik, two seniors from Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls in the Fourth Congressional district of New York.

These two teens have accomplished an amazing feat. On December 4, they were awarded the top team prize of \$100,000 in the Siemens Westinghouse Science and Technology Competitions. Their ingenious project was the development of a Viscometer to measure the consistency of ultra-thin lubricants. Their achievement is bound to affect the fields of micro-electronics and medical therapy, specifically in the treatment of arthritis patients.

The Westinghouse Competition is administered by The College Board and funded by the Siemens Foundation. It recognizes achievement and invention in the fields of science and technology, and allows high school students to receive national recognition for their research projects. Awards are given to individual and team projects in scholarship amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

I admire Shira and Dora for many reasons, the first of which is their ability to research, develop and apply such a spectacular invention at the ages of 16 and 17. The two girls have shown high levels of intelligence balanced with concern and dedication to the betterment of their community. Their participation in the Westinghouse research program was just a small part of their busy schedule. Both Orthodox Jews who observe the Saturday Sabbath, Shira and Dora maintain a packed academic and extra-curricular schedule. Attendance at the Abraham School is from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., where emphasis is placed on a combination of academic and religious studies. The girls are also co-editors of the school yearbook.

The research program at the Abraham School is relatively new, created just two years ago. Shira and Dora were advised by their chemistry teacher, Rebecca Isseroff, and supervised by Professor Miriam Rafailovich, director of the Garcia Center for Polymers at Engineered Interfaces at SUNY Stony Brook.

I know this prestigious honor is a precursor of things to come. Long Island can expect great things from Shira Billet and Dora Sosnowik. I congratulate and thank them for what they have done and will continue to do for our community.

TRIBUTE CONNER STREET  
ELEMENTARY**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2001*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Conner Street Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Conner Street Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Conner Street Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.